

ACTION

DC
COMICS

IN THIS
ISSUE:

ACTION-PLUS WITH:
GREEN ARROW!

20c



NO. 424
JUNE
30410

ACTION COMICS



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GRANDSTAND
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HERO, SUPERMAN, HAS
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HANDS OF A SUPER-
GORILLA...

...I CALL UPON ALL
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TO... GRODD'S GORILLA
EMPIRE!

"GORILLA GRODD'S GRANDSTAND PLAY!"

STORY BY:
ELLIOT MAGGIN
EDITED BY:
JULIUS SCHWARTZ

ART BY: CURT SWAN & MURPHY ANDERSON

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IN DEEPEST AFRICA
LIES **GORILLA CITY**,
STRONGHOLD OF A
SUPER-SCIENTIFIC
CIVILIZATION...
SHIELDED FROM
HUMAN SENSES...



...BY A **FORCE-FIELD**
MENTALLY CREATED BY
SOLOVAR, THE GORILLA
CHIEFTAIN WHOSE
MASTERY OF **MIND-
POWER** HAS RAISED
HIS FELLOWS FROM
THEIR PRIMITIVE
JUNGLE EXISTENCE...



BECAUSE OF
HIS FORAYS
AGAINST **HUMANS**
ON THE OUTSIDE
WORLD, THE
POWER-MAD
GORILLA GENIUS
NAMED **GRODD**
HAS BEEN
IMPRISONED ON
A **TREADMILL**
TO KEEP HIM IN
A CONTINUOUS
STATE OF
EXHAUSTION...

IT'S TAKEN ME ALL
THIS TIME... SINCE
FLASH PUT ME HERE...
TO COLLECT MY
THOUGHTS...

...FORMULATE A
MASTER PLAN...
TO
ESCAPE...



MOMENTS LATER, IN
CHIEF SOLOVAR'S
CABINET ROOM...

THE
**SPECIAL
ALARM!**
THE
**FORCE-
SHIELD**
CONCEALING
**GORILLA
CITY** HAS
BEEN
DESTROYED!

THIS AREA OF
AFRICA HAS
BEEN HEAVILY
**SETTLED BY
HUMANS!** WE
ARE SURE TO
BE DISCOVERED
NOW!



CHIEF SOLOVAR!
THE PRISONER
GRODD HAS
ESCAPED!



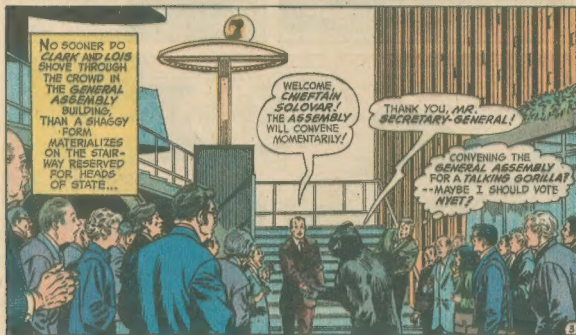
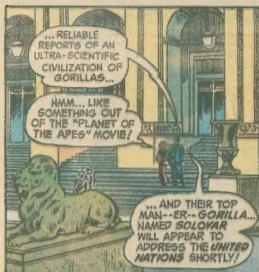
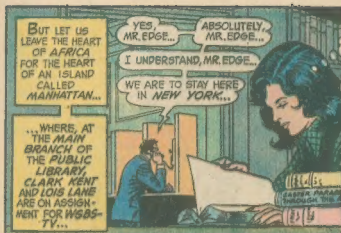
VERY
UNFORTUNATE--
BUT WE HAVE
MORE **PRESSING**
PROBLEMS NOW!

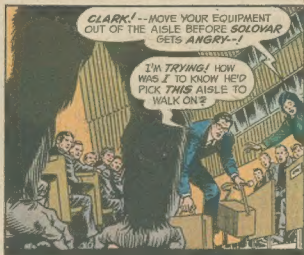
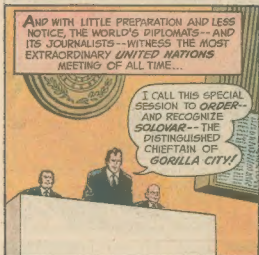
WE MUST
DECIDE HOW
TO LIVE PEACE-
FULLY WITH THE
OUTSIDE WORLD
...OR WE ARE
ALL DOOMED!

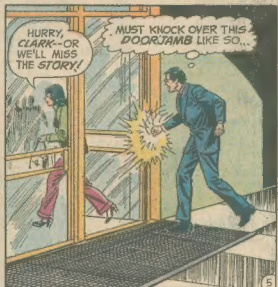
ONLY BY A SUPREME EFFORT
DID I SUCCEED IN MENTALLY
DIVERTING THE POWER OF
SOLOVAR'S CITY-SHIELD
TO OVERLOAD MY **TREADMILL**--
OVERCOME MY GUARDS--AND
DESTROY THE **SHIELD!**

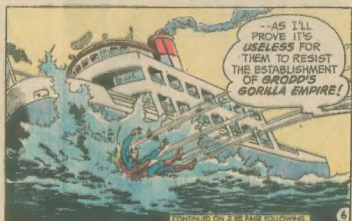
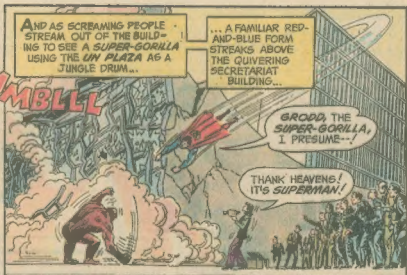
NOW TO RECOVER THE
MIND-TRANSFER
DEVICE I FORESIGHTEDLY
HID IN THE **JUNGLE!**











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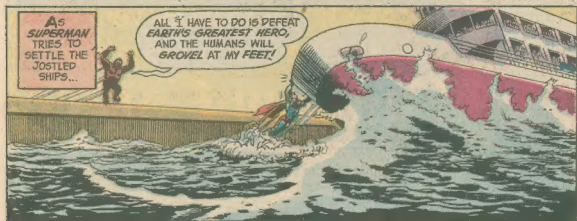
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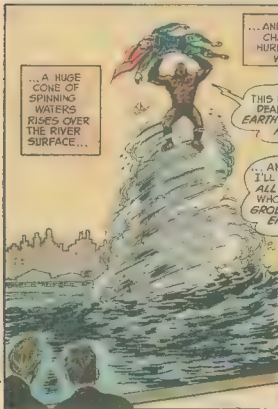
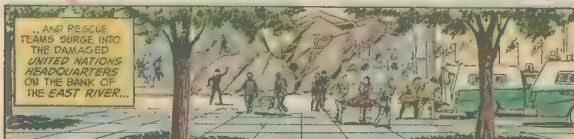
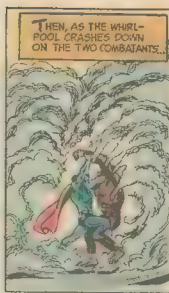
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P. Williams

R. Anderson

P. Williams



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M. Robinson



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Name _____ Age _____

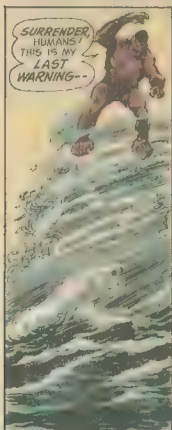
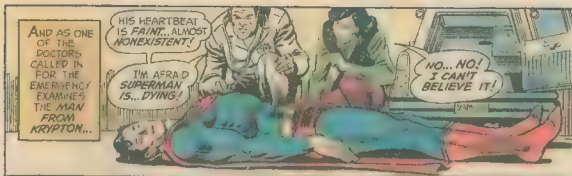
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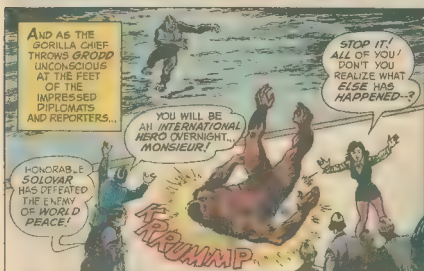
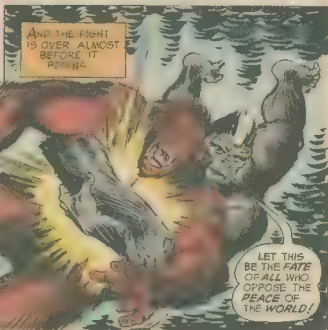
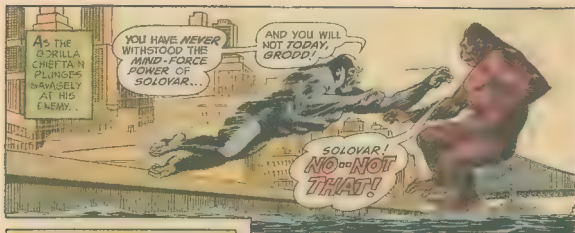
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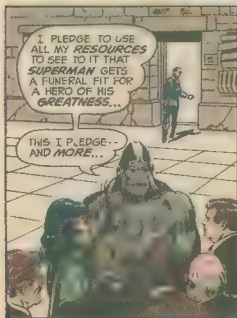
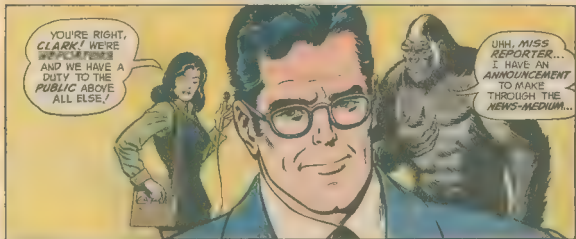
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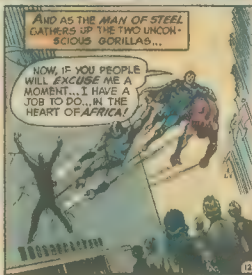
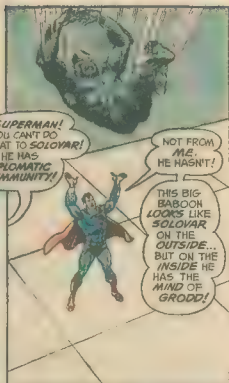


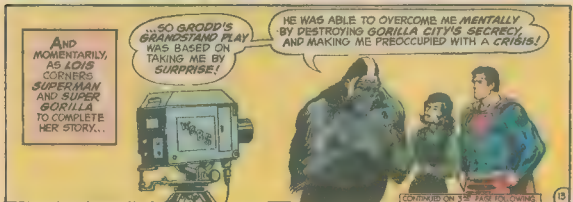
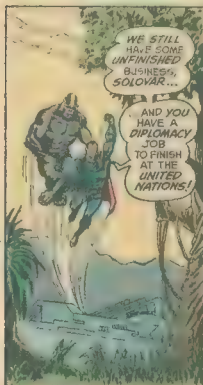
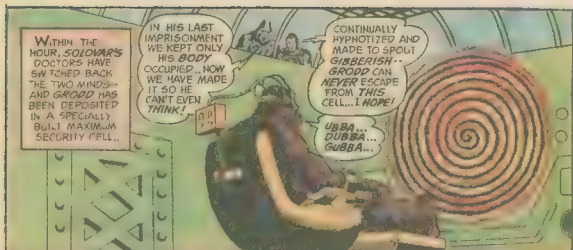


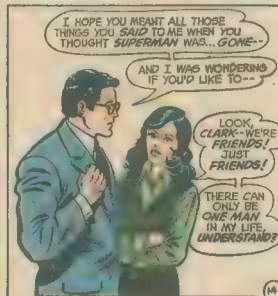
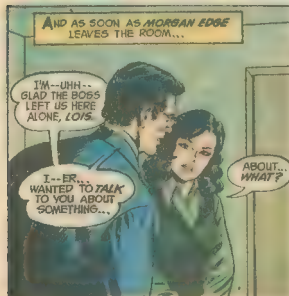
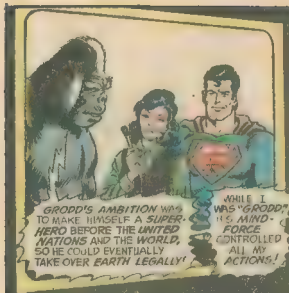


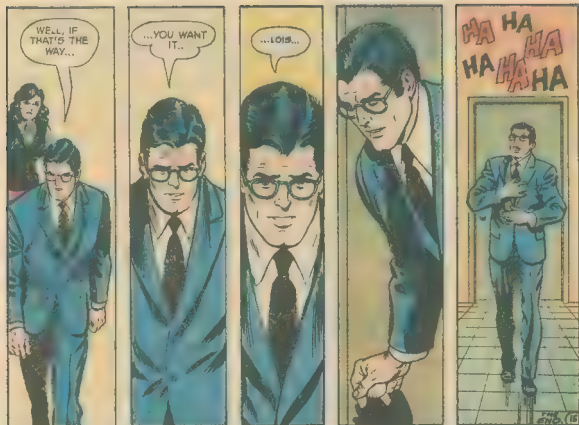
STOP FOR A MOMENT AND CONSIDER THE ABSURDITY OF THIS SITUATION! SUPERMAN, AS CLARK KENT, HAS JUST COMFORTED LOIS, WHO WAS MOURNING HIS DEATH! SHE IS NOW INTERVIEWING AN INTELLIGENT GORILLA WHO IS PLANNING HIS FUNERAL! BUT IF YOU NOTICE A BESPECTACLED FIGURE DARTING INTO A RANSACKED BUILDING, YOU KNOW THE SCENE IS ABOUT TO GET WILDER!...











Coming Super-Attractions!

IN THE **SUPERMAN** #265
JULY

"ATTACK BY THE ARMY OF TOMORROW!"

A FULL-LENGTH NOVEL FEATURING THE MAN OF TOMORROW.
IN AN INCREDIBLE CLASH WITH THE PEOPLE OF TOMORROW!

(ON SALE ON OR ABOUT APRIL 5TH)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

IN THE **ACTION** #425
JULY

A BIG TRIPLE-HEADER ISSUE :

SUPERMAN DISCOVERS "THE LAST MOA ON EARTH!"

A STARTLING ACTION PLUS STORY--

THE HUMAN TARGET IN "THE SHORT-WALK-TO-DISASTER CONTRACT!"

EXPLOSIVE ACTION WITH THE ATOM...
"13 OLD MEN WHO RUN THE WORLD!"

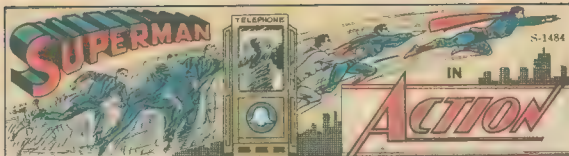
(ON SALE ON OR ABOUT APRIL 26TH)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

And Coming Soon--THE RETURN OF THE
SUPERMEN OF AMERICA CLUB!

WATCH FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT--YOU'LL WANT TO JOIN!





Dear Editor:

The Nick Cardy cover for *Action* #420 was a beauty. It's really great! The cover story, "The Made-to-Order Menace," was excellent. Imagine Henry Kissinger going to Atlantis! The reason given was great! A tip of the hat to Elliot Maggin.

You've really started off 1973 with a bang-up issue. The *Human Target* in "The King of the Jungle Contract" was great. The Dick Giordano artwork was great. All I've got to add is, keep up the great work.

I'm pleased to hear that *Green Arrow* will have a solo story in #421. I hope Elliot Maggin is the writer. Will Nash, Magnolia, N.J.

(He was—so that should finish the "great" job of making you completely happy.—E.N.B.)



Dear Editor:

Action #420 wasn't up to usual standards for a Superman story. *Towhee*, like you said, isn't really a villain. He simply doesn't care if he is right or wrong. So *Towhee* just didn't have the excitement of a *Terra-Man* or *Lex Luthor*. He did some unique things, though, like putting a phony *Clark Kent* on that flying monster. And the phony *Clark* did a great job of whimpering and being scared, like the real *Clark* would have done.

I'm glad we're finally seeing more of *Lois Lane*, *Jimmy Olsen* and *Perry White*. *Danny Victor* was a good character. I hope to see more of him in future issues—and *Towhee*, also, if you'll make him meaner, or just do something so he's more exciting.

The *Human Target* was a total waste of space. You should have some other super-hero in his place.

Nick Cardy is doing a great job on the covers. This issue's was sensational. I also like your new lettercol heading. Who drew it?

Dave Moses, Bloomington, Minn.

(Murphy Anderson is the artist whose work appears at the top of this page.—E.N.B.)



Dear Editor:

Once again, Elliot Maggin has come through with an excellent script. "The Made-to-Order Menace" had a nice combination of humor, characterization and excitement. Some of that "old-time flavor" was captured, also, by having *Lois* voice suspicions about *Clark* and by the final panel. With the picturesque Swan-Anderson art, it was, all in all, a fine story.

The *Human Target* is unquestionably a great idea, and Len Wein struck gold again with "The King of the Jungle Contract." I was hoping against hope for another Infantino effort, but Dick Giordano certainly takes a back seat to no one as an artist. As usual, he was superlative. Keep the series running for as long as possible.

Gerard Triano, Elmont, N.Y.

(Ah! Those are the kind of words we love to read. They almost make us forget our more severe critics. Almost . . . —E.N.B.)

Dear Editor:

I hope to see more of that moody youngster, *Danny Victor*, in your stories. It would appear that he'll be working for *WGBS* perhaps with *Clark*.

As for this *Towhee* character, I hope never to see him again! Honestly, he makes for a dull story! Thank Maggin for *Victor*!

This *Towhee* fellow is none too bright, either! On the last two panels of page 14, *Superman* stands a good 2 to 3 inches over *Towhee's* *Clark*. Despite the lack of action in this story, Maggin handled it well and made a good story out of it.

I reserve comment on the *Human Target* story for this month. Suffice it to say, however, that it was much better than last month's.

You may rest assured that I am thrilled reading my letter in this issue (#424). You may also be sure of a letter next month, with some comment on the *Action-Plus* *Green Arrow* story in #421.

Seba Whitney, Alpena, Mi.

(We can explain the seeming "error" concerning *Clark's* height. The real *Clark* deliberately slumps slightly in order to appear to be shorter than *Superman*. So *Towhee* didn't goof, after all. Now you explain something—how you were so sure that we'd print your letter, out of the stacks we received on #420!—E.N.B.)



Folks at *Action*.

Maggin's writing is great (*Action* #420). The dialogue is unself-conscious and the story-line flows smoothly. I can see Maggin's sly wit twisting the story as he sits grinning behind the typewriter (even though his humor does tend to get a bit sticky at times).

Swan and Anderson's art, though I think it slightly over-rated, grows on a feller and, I must admit, anybody else on *Superman* would be nothing short of blasphemous. I'm even getting to like Cardy's covers. His *Towhee* looked incredibly like some of Schaffenberger's stuff.

Speaking of Schaffenberger—don't let him get away again before you have him do some work on *Shazam*! With him and Beck back on the *Big Red Cheese*, who knows what greatness lurks in the heart of *DC*?

Henry C. Beck, New York, N.Y.

(Funny—we heard Denny O'Neil say something like that while working on one of his upcoming mags—The Shadow! As for Schaffenberger, we're keeping him in the wings, ready for *Shazam!* action if needed. Naturally, *Superman* and the original *Captain Marvel* are resuming their battle to see who'll get the top sales in the comix world. With a name like Beck, need we ask whom you are backing?—E.N.B.)



Send your comments to SUPERMAN in ACTION National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

GREEN ARROW

"THE CANDY KITCHEN CAPER!"

STORY BY: ELLIOT MAGGIN
ART BY: DICK DILLIN & DICK GIORDANO

LATE ONE NIGHT AT THE STAR CITY MINERALOGY MUSEUM -- A DARING ROBBERY IS UNDER WAY... THE "HEFT OF THE FABULOUS STAR OF CALCUTTA..."

REMEMBER--
PULL ME UP
SOON AS I
GRAB THE
ROCK...

...BECAUSE
THE ALARM'S
GONNA MAKE
THIS PLACE
SOUND LIKE
A FIREHOUSE!

AS THE
THIEF
HITS THE
FLOOR,
AUTOMATICALLY
SETTING OFF
THE ALARM...

THIS IS ONE
ROCK THAT
STAYS PUT!

NO TIME
FOR THE
RUBY NOW!
LET'S CUT
OUTA
HERE!

LOWER
ME SOME
MORE
ROPE!

EEEEEE

BOOM

THIS PLACE IS SO BUGGED
THAT SIRENS WILL SCREAM IF
EVEN THE WEIGHT OF A
CUFF-LINK HITS THE FLOOR...

...ONLY THEY FORGOT
TO BUG THE ROOF!

ABRUPTLY, THE AIR IS CUT BY
THE FASTER-THAN-THOUGHT
FLASH OF A NARROW SHAFT.

GUHH--!

I FIGURED YOU
HOODS WOULD SHOW
UP HERE TONIGHT!

YOU'VE BEEN
PICKING UP SHINY
THINGS THAT WEREN'T
YOURS FOR WEEKS
NOW...



THE NEXT INSTANT,
A SUCTION-SHAFT
SENDS THE SECOND
JEWEL-ROBBER
PLUNGING
DOWNWARD...

GAAAH!

THE ONLY
WAY
YOU'RE
LEAVING
HERE--

...S IN THE
LONG ARMS
OF THE LAW!

WHAT'S
GOING
ON
HERE--?

URGHH--!

WE GOT A
BREAK! C'MON--
UP THE
GETAWAY-ROPE!

GET
THAT
COPTER
RUNNING...
FAST!

GREEN ARROW!
I DIDN'T
REALIZE--

UNHH...

AND BY THE TIME THE
EMERALD ARCHER
REACHES HIS BEARINGS...

GONE!--
AND NO
WAY TO
FOLLOW
'EM!

OF ALL
THE
ROTTEN
LUCK!

GREEN
ARROW...
I'M
TERRIBLY
SORRY
ABOUT--

AWWWW...TURN
OFF THE ALARM,
GRANDPA...

...BEFORE THE
NOISE GIVES ME
A HEADACHE!

CONTINUED ON 23 PAGE FOLLOWING.

2



THESE 3 BIG DRAFTING KITS* GIVEN TO YOU!



Big Promotion!

18 months ago I met a laborer. Now, am foreman of a crew in the Drafting Room. Thanks for making it so possible. J. D. Mass

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FREE! NO RED CHINA STAMPS Forbidden For A Generation!

SENT TO ACQUAINT YOU WITH THE EXCEPTIONAL VALUES OF OUR SPECIAL OFFERS!
Be among the first to get these valuable Red China postage stamps—banned to American collectors from the very beginning by the U.S. Gov't. Now at last you can legally own them—but supplies are strictly limited so you must act fast. A great opportunity to peek through the Bamboo Curtain with these 40 fascinating, historical stamp issues. We'll also include a copy of our "How To Collect Stamps" booklet. A sensational Free Get-Acquainted offer to introduce you to Stamp Collecting—World's Most Rewarding Hobby—and selections of unusual world-wide stamps from our famous Free Examination Stamps-On-Approval Service. **NO OBLIGATION TO BUY—NOW OR EVER.** Cancel Service anytime. Send 10¢ today for mailing.

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With this Free Kit... Stamps we send you, we'll send you a 10 address stamp from Britain's last imperial issue worth over \$3 at catalog prices! (10¢ a piece). A complete set of England's 40 stamps and Queens and this is a limited special bonus. This Special Bonus will be yours—keep Free!—for buying \$1 or more from our Approval Service. See time. You'll have fun, and fascinating in perfect relaxation. Collecting stamps and interesting stories of adventure, travel and discovery. But even if you buy nothing, the 40 Red China Stamps and "How To Collect" booklet are yours to keep anyway!

YOU GET THIS TOO!

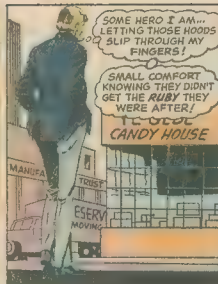
KENMORE STAMP CO. MILFORD CT 296 N HAMP 03055 NO RISK GUARANTEE!

Rush me your introductory offer. I understand that while I have to buy \$1 worth of stamps from your approval selection to keep the illustrated Album, 140 stamps, 12 Kenmore stamps and a complete set of the 40 Red China Stamps and "How To Collect" booklet are mine to keep FREE. In return, agree to examine your unusual Stamps-On-Approval Selections from which I may purchase any or none—return balance in 10 days—and can cancel service anytime. I enclose 10¢ for mailing.

Name
Address
City, State, Z.P.

MAIL COUPON TODAY!

BUT THAT WAS ALL LAST NIGHT... AND AS THE SUN GLOWS ON THE STREETS OF STAR CITY, SOMEHOW NONE OF THE LIGHT MANAGES TO REACH OLIVER QUEEN...



SOME HERO I AM... LETTING THOSE HOODS SLIP THROUGH MY FINGERS!

SMALL COMFORT KNOWING THEY DIDN'T GET THE RUBY THEY WERE AFTER!

OLDE CANDY HOUSE

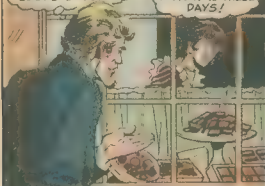
TO TOP IT OFF, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET UP ENOUGH CASH TO ADVERTISE MY NEW PUBLIC RELATIONS AGENCY!

EVEN WORSE, I'M WALKING THE STREETS WITH A GRUMBLING STOMACH!



MMM... THAT CHOCOLATE IN THE WINDOW SURE LOOKS GOOD...

WONDER HOW MUCH A DIME'S WORTH IN THESE DAYS!



AND AS OLLIE BITES INTO A CHUNK OF HOME-MADE CHOCOLATE FUDGE...

MMM... THIS MIGHT JUST BE THE BEST FUDGE I'VE EVER TASTED!

THANK YOU... I MAKE IT MYSELF!

REALLY? SAY-- THAT GIVES ME AN IDEA!



MY NAME'S OLIVER QUEEN... I'M A PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN...

...AND I'M GOING TO MAKE YOUR CHOCOLATE FAMOUS!... WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

EVELYN WOODHOUSE...



GIVE ME ONE WEEK-- AND YE OLDE CANDY HOUSE, WITH EVELYN'S CHOCOLATE FUDGE, WILL BE THE BIGGEST THING IN STAR CITY!

BUT THIS IS A SMALL SHOP! WE CAN'T PAY FOR A BIG--



AT THAT MOMENT, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF A TWO-WAY MIRROR ON THE CANDY HOUSE WALL.

EVELYN: YOU DON'T PAY A CENT TILL YOU'RE SATISFIED! FAIR ENOUGH?

THIS BEARDED OLDE COULD BE TROUBLE, JACK!

QUIET, ARTIE, WHILE I CUT THIS DIAMOND!

WELL, IF YOU PUT IT THAT--WAY--HOW COULD I REFUSE?

IN JUST SEVEN DAYS, THERE'LL BE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIGHTING TO GET IN HERE TO BUY YOUR CHOCOLATE FUDGE!

WHEN ARTIE WARNS EVELYN NOT TO FALL FOR HIGH-PRESSURE SALES TACTICS...

YOU MADE ME MANAGER OF THIS STORE, AND I'LL RUN IT THE WAY I THINK BEST!

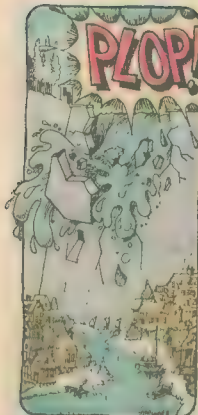
HOPE THAT P.R. GUY DOESN'T BLOW OUR SETUP!

IF WE DIDN'T NEED A RESPECTABLE FRONT FOR OUR OPERATIONS, I'D CAN THIS CHICK!

FOR THE BEST CHOCOLATE FUDGE IN TOWN COME ON DOWN TO YE OLDE CANDY HOUSE

COME ON, PHIL... YOU OWE ME A FAVOR!

SLIP IN A SHOT OF YE OLDE CANDY HOUSE AS YOU PAN OVER THE CITY AT THE BEGINNING OF YOUR NEWS-SHOW!



You say you know that **PLOP** is coming... but you don't know what **PLOP** is? Is that what's troubling you, boy?



JUST PUT AN X NEXT TO THE COMICS YOU WANT!

ENCLOSE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER ONLY--CUT ON DOTTED LINE AND MAIL TO:
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- 88 ☐ G.I. COMBAT
- 81 ☐ OUR ARMY AT WAR
- 82 ☐ OUR FIGHTING FORCES
- 83 ☐ STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES
- 44 ☐ WEIRD WAR TALES

ADVENTURE

- 78 ☐ TARZAN
- 76 ☐ KORAK
- 77 ☐ WEIRD WORLDS
- 78 ☐ KAMANDI
- 79 ☐ SWORD OF SORCERY

SCIENCE FICTION

- 80 ☐ FROM BEYOND THE UNKNOWN
- 81 ☐ STRANGE ADVENTURES

AND
IT SEEMS
THAT
WHAT-
EVER
QUEEN
HAS
DONE,
HE HAS
MANAGED
TO DO
IT
RIGHT...

OLLIE--THIS
IS FABULOUS!
ALL THESE
CUSTOMERS!

WHAT'D I TELL YOU?-- I
BROUGHT THIS CAMERA SO I
COULD TAKE A PICTURE OF
YOU FOR THE STAR-HERALD!

BUT
AS
OLIVER
IS
ABOUT
TO
TAKE
THE
PICTURE...

EVELYN, THIS IS MR. HELLER...
HERE FOR THE BOXES OF--ER--
CHOCOLATE FUDGE THAT WERE
RESERVED FOR HIM...

YES, I'VE
GOT THEM
RIGHT
HERE!

HEY, WHAT'S
WITH THE
PICTURES?

IT'S ALL RIGHT...
IT'S PART OF THE
BIG PUBLICITY
BUILD-UP!

NO
PICTURES!

Gimme
that
camera,
you!

MR. HELLER DOESN'T
LIKE PEOPLE TAKING
PICTURES OF HIM!

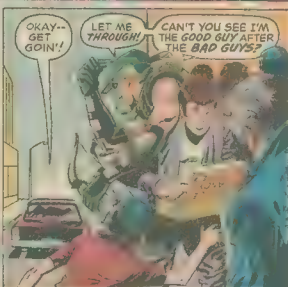
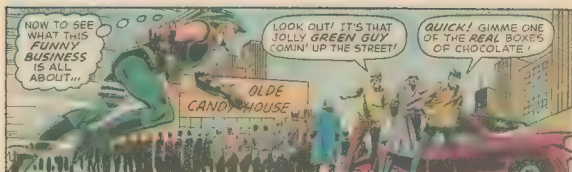
MOMENTS LATER, OLIVER
QUEEN DUCKS INTO A
PHONE-BOOTH ON A
SIDE STREET...

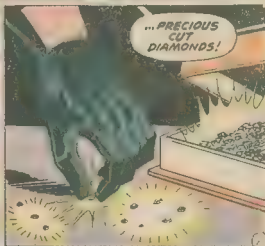
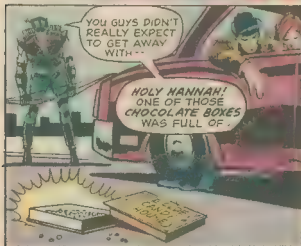
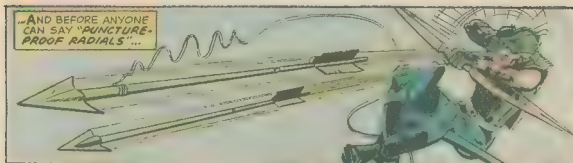
THERE'S AN OLD
STORY THAT
SUPERMAN USED
TO CHANGE INTO
COSTUME IN A
PHONE-BOOTH!

I'LL
HAVE TO
ASK HIM
ABOUT
THAT ONE--

-- IT'S
AWFULLY
CROWDED
IN THERE!

UHH-- SURE!
I'M CERTAINLY
NOT ONE TO
OBJECT--





AS THE POLICE ARRIVE
AND THE KITCHEN OF THE
CANDY HOUSE IS INSPECTED...

THIS IS WHERE
YOU MAKE YOUR
**CHOCOLATE
FUDGE, MESS?**

IS THERE
ANY PART OF THE
KITCHEN YOU ARE
SUPPOSED TO STAY
AWAY FROM?

YES-- THAT
CABINET IS
ALWAYS
LOCKED! I
DON'T HAVE
THE KEY--

--BUT I DO
HAVE AN
**ACETYLENE
ARROW!**

AS THE ARCHER BREAKS
THE LOCK AND OPENS
THE CABINET...

MY EVER-
LOVING
MIND!

A COMPLETE
SET OF
**DIAMOND-
CUTTING
EQUIPMENT!**

IT ALL ADDS UP
NOW! JACK AND
ARTIE WERE A
COUPLE OF
JEWEL THIEVES--

THEY'D CUT THE GEMS
HERE AND HAND THEM
OVER TO A FENCE-- THE
GUY WHO OBJECTED TO
BEING PHOTOGRAPHED!

I HAD
NO
IDEA--

**YE OLDE
CANDY HOUSE**

CLOSED BY ORDER OF
THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

WHAT WILL
I DO NOW?
THOSE TWO
CROOKS
OWNED THE
STORE!

ARE YOU
KIDDING?--
THAT CRACK
PRESS AGENT
OF YOURS
MADE YOUR
CHOCOLATE
FUDGE THE
BIGGEST
THING IN
STAR CITY!

YOU CAN
OPEN YOUR
OWN CANDY
HOUSE!

A
WONDER-
FUL IDEA...
IF I HAD
THE
MONEY!

WHAT
CHARITY
DO YOU
WANT YOUR
REWARD
MONEY TO
GO TO
THIS TIME,
**GREEN
ARROW?**

WELL,
THAT
YOUNG
LADY
NEEDS
SOME
CASH
AND--

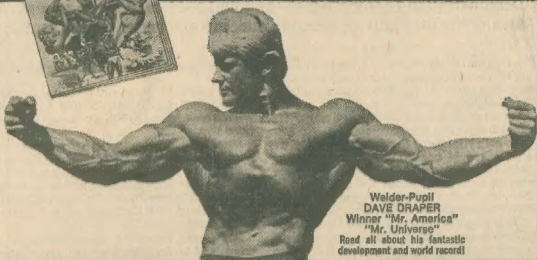
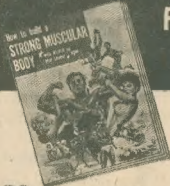
OH, THANK
YOU, **GREEN
ARROW!**...
NOW I
MIGHT
EVEN BE
ABLE TO
BUY
**OLIVER
QUEEN,
MY
PRESS
AGENT!**

MEANWHILE,
HER PRESS
AGENT HAS
TO WALK
HOME...
BECAUSE
HE HASN'T
THE PRICE
OF A TAXI...
OR EVEN
A BUS!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE ON OR ABOUT APRIL 26TH

THE END

Joe Weider's FREE Body-Building Booklet Is YOUR FIRST STEP TO A POWERFUL, HEALTHY & HANDSOME BODY!



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ever!

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ZIP _____
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Here's the kind of
body I want (shown
as many as you
wish).

- ☐ Bigger arms
- ☐ Larger Chest
- ☐ Broader Shoulders
- ☐ Athletic Legs
- ☐ More Weight
- ☐ Lose Weight
- ☐ Magnetic Personality

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NO OBLIGATION!

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